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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA
800 AM CDT WED APR 8 2009

...THIS IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA...

GOVERNOR CHET CULVER...THE IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT DIVISION...AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAVE
DESIGNATED THE WEEK OF APRIL 6 TO APRIL 10 AS SEVERE WEATHER
AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA. EACH MORNING THIS WEEK...THE NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC INFORMATION
STATEMENT FOCUSING ON A DIFFERENT ITEM EACH DAY. TOPICS THIS
YEAR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING...

MONDAY...FLOODING
TUESDAY...SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS
WEDNESDAY...TORNADOES
THURSDAY... NOAA ALL HAZARDS WEATHER RADIO
FRIDAY...FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

ATTENTION MEDIA...IN ORDER FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK TO
BE EFFECTIVE...MEDIA COVERAGE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE USE THE
INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS IN YOUR NEWS
PROGRAMS TO HELP PROMOTE SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY. WE ALSO
ENCOURAGE MEDIA INTERVIEWS. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF JOHNSON IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED.

THE STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL WILL BE CONDUCTED THIS MORNING. HERE
IS WHAT TO EXPECT...

10:00 A.M. CDT STORM PREDICTION CENTER ISSUES TEST TORNADO WATCH
FOR ALL OF IOWA VALID UNTIL 11:00 A.M.
10:10 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN SIOUX FALLS
ISSUES A TEST TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA
COUNTIES.
10:10 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN OMAHA ISSUES
TEST A TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA COUNTIES.
10:15 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN DES MOINES
ISSUES A TEST TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA
COUNTIES.
10:15 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN QUAD CITIES
ISSUES A TEST TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA
COUNTIES.
10:20 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN LA CROSSE ISSUES
TEST A TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA COUNTIES.
10:30 A.M. UNTIL 10:45 A.M.
ALL IOWA WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES ISSUE A SEVERE

WEATHER STATEMENT TERMINATING THE TEST.

TODAY/S TOPIC IS TORNADOES...

A TORNADO IS A RAPIDLY ROTATING COLUMN OF AIR IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUND. A VISIBLE CLOUD IS NOT NEEDED FOR A TORNADO TO BE IN PROGRESS. SOME TORNADOES MAY NOT APPEAR TO EXTEND TO THE GROUND BUT ARE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. TORNADOES TAKE ON VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES...AND MOST PRODUCE WINDS LESS THAN 120 MPH. HOWEVER A FEW ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING WINDS OVER 300 MPH. SOME ARE VERY SMALL AND LAST FOR ONLY A MINUTE OR SO...WHILE OTHERS CAN BE A MILE OR TWO WIDE AND STAY ON THE GROUND FOR OVER AN HOUR. TORNADOES HAVE OCCURRED IN EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR ACROSS IOWA DURING ANY TIME OF DAY. HOWEVER THEY ARE MOST LIKELY TO FORM IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING HOURS DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL...MAY AND JUNE.

2008 WAS A BAD YEAR IN IOWA REGARDING TORNADOES. 105 TORNADOES TOUCHED DOWN IN IOWA IN 2008 WHICH IS THE SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD. TWO INFAMOUS TORNADOES INCLUDED THE DEADLY EF3 TORNADO WHICH STRUCK WESTERN IOWA ON JUNE 11 KILLING FOUR BOYS AT A BOYS SCOUT CAMP...AND THE PARKERSBURG-NEW HARTFORD TORNADO ON MAY 25TH WHICH KILLED NINE PEOPLE. THE PARKERSBURG-NEW HARTFORD TORNADO WAS RATED EF5 AND IT WAS THE STRONGEST TORNADO TO HIT IOWA SINCE 1976.

FOR IOWA TORNADO STATISTICS SINCE 1980...VISIT OUR SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS PAGE ON OUR WEB SITE AT WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES.

NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEATHER...WATER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATES THE MOST ADVANCED WEATHER AND FLOOD WARNING AND FORECAST SYSTEM IN THE WORLD HELPING TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY AND ENHANCE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

TORNADO SAFETY RULES WILL BE INCLUDED IN A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON.

JEFF JOHNSON
WARNING AND COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST
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